The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Published by
The Evening Star Newspaper Company.
FRANK B. NOYES, President.

B. M. McKELWAY, Editor.

MAIN OFFICE: 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 110 East 42d St.
CHICAGO OFFICE: 435 North Michigan Ave.

Delivered by Carrier—Metropolitan Area.

Daily and Sunday	Daily Only	Sunday Only
Monthly ..1.20*	Monthly 90c	10c per copy
Weekly ...30c	Weekly ...20c	10c per copy

*10c additional when 5 Sundays are in a month.
Also 10c additional for Night Final Edition in those sections where delivery is made.

Rates by Mail—Payable in Advance.
Anywhere in United States.

Evening and Sunday	Evening	Sunday
1 month ... 1.50	1 month ... 90c	1 month 60c
6 months... 7.50	6 months ... 5.00	6 months 3.00
1 year ...15.00	1 year 10.00	1 year .. 6.00

Telephone NAtional 5000.

Entered at the Post Office, Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.

Member of the Associated Press.
The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper, as well as all A. P. news dispatches.

A—8 WEDNESDAY, November 12, 1947

Why 100 Per Cent Right?

"One hundred per cent right," says Commissioner Mason, commenting on The Star's description of conditions in Gallinger's notorious psychopathic division.

But what does Commissioner Mason propose to do about it?

The Star believes he could do a great deal by calling into consultation the people who share responsibility with him—Health Officer Ruhland, Dr. A. R. Sweeney, superintendent of Gallinger, and Dr. Joseph L. Gilbert, head of the division. He should call on members of the District Medical Society and the deans of the medical schools of Georgetown and George Washington Universities for their views and their advice. He should find out why the United States Public Health Service has not complied with requests for advice previously forwarded.

Out of such conversations and conferences there surely would result a plan of action designed to end the perennial criticism of a branch at Gallinger that has lagged so far behind the improvements made in its other branches.

If the difficulties—aside from physical limitations—spring from bad management, new management should be installed. If the medical schools are willing to assist in making the division a teaching center, their conditions for such participation should be obtained and complied with. If it is feasible to abolish this place entirely and by statute transfer its functions to St. Elizabeths Hospital, the possibility should be explored.

There are many other things that can and must be done to end the "disgrace to Washington" that this poorly equipped, understaffed, badly run branch of an otherwise good municipal hospital represents.

For too many years the Gallinger authorities, the Health Department authorities and the District Commissioners have complacently accepted conditions as they are. There is no excuse for such an attitude. There is no excuse for letting things slide in the pious hope of some day obtaining a new building. There is no excuse in blaming Congress—for in recent years the appropriations committees of Congress have responded quickly and sympathetically to any intelligently expressed need for improvement.

There is no reason, in other words, why repeated criticism of Gallinger's psychopathic division must be accepted as inevitable and as "one hundred per cent right."

Report on Greece

In his first report to Congress on our Greek-Turkish aid program, President Truman has drawn an extremely "iffy" and rather glum picture of the situation, especially as regards Greece. Though not pessimistic, the report is decidedly not bright. It frankly acknowledges that events up to now have worked out much less satisfactorily than expected. More than that, it strongly suggests that the $400,000,000 originally approved for this project will not be enough to insure success.

As the President sees it, the one important thing that has been achieved is that our aid has succeeded "so far" in averting a Greek collapse that might have occurred otherwise. Beyond that, however, the discouraging truth is that the country's economic condition "has not basically improved" and that the military outlook has grown worse, not better. Drought, the diversion of funds to support operations against increased guerrilla activity and rising prices in America have all had "unfavorable" effects, the chief one being a reduction in the buying power of the money we have made available to Greece for such essentials as food. As a result, in the President's words, "greater sums than were anticipated" must now be spent on those essentials.

What is necessary above all, according to the President, is the restoration of order in Greece. Given that, he says, there will be "every reason to be optimistic about recovery." Unfortunately, however, "economic and political unrest remain of grave concern"—a condition stemming primarily from "the continued support of the guerrillas by Greece's northern neighbors." From the standpoint of international relations, this is the most significant point in the President's report: The fact that he flatly charges Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania with keeping up their poorly disguised acts of aggression against Greek independence and territorial integrity. Months ago, the majority of the Security Council's now-dissolved Balkan investigating committee found them guilty of the same charge. But they are still at it, and since they are nothing but the Kremlin's puppets, what that really means is that the Russians are still at it.

Small wonder, therefore, that Moscow and its satellites intend to boycott the General Assembly's special "watchdog" commission to promote peace in the area. What they are doing to the Greeks cannot stand up under the honest, impartial inspection advocated by the overwhelming U. N. majority. They oppose it because there is dirty work still to be done in the stubborn and continuing effort to force Greece within Russia's orbit and thus promote eventual Soviet dominance of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In the circumstances, even though our aid program has been disappointing to date, President Truman is right in declaring that every dollar invested in it "will have been fully justified" if it keeps Greece and Turkey independent. The "if" is a big one, but we cannot safely retreat from it. We have to be as stubborn in our effort to uphold freedom in this vital area as Russia is to beat it down. Otherwise, as the President says, we shall be risking collapse and disorder of a kind that "would threaten peace and tranquillity throughout the world," our own not least of all.

Marshall Plan Opponent

Read against the background of his emergence as a leading opponent of the Marshall plan, the speech which Senator Taft has delivered to the Ohio Society of New York is cause for profound misgiving.

The Ohio Senator has made it plain that he intends to fight the Marshall program in its present form. And since he is not only chairman of the influential Republican Policy Committee of the Senate, but also a leading candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, it is possible that he has it in his power to block the program.

It would be a dismaying thing, however, if he should succeed in this on the basis of the thinking revealed in the New York speech. For that was a confused speech—a speech which strongly suggests that Senator Taft has not thought this thing through, and has not even been able to keep his sights on the main target.

In evaluating the Marshall program, the Taft program, or any other program for the recovery of Western Europe, it is essential to keep fixed in mind the real objective toward which we are working and the importance to us of attaining that objective. Briefly stated, our primary objective is to prevent Communist domination of Western Europe and Britain. It is vital, for us, that we succeed in doing this. For if communism sweeps to the Atlantic, Britain, if not actually engulfed by the tide, will be reduced to impotence. And we, in turn, will be isolated in a hostile world and forced to surrender all of our cherished freedoms and luxuries in preparation for the almost inevitable clash of arms.

Senator Taft sees the first part of this clearly enough. Or at least, he says that there can be no doubt of the determination of the Communists to spread their "religion" throughout the world, that there are "powerful reasons" for continuing aid to Western Europe, and that "we must do what we can to prevent the spread of communism." But he never seems quite to face up to the grim prospect which would confront us if, in spite of the limited efforts he would make, communism nevertheless should come to dominate the rest of the world. And it is because of this, because he will not think the thing through to the prospect of a United States isolated in a hostile world, that his speech is filled with confusions and contradictions.

His objections to the Marshall plan are fourfold. (1) It would continue "an intolerable and dangerous" tax burden. (2) It would "inflate prices further" in the United States. (3) It would "encourage unsound policies in Europe." (4) It would "force futile and dangerous regimentation on American productivity."

If these are valid objections, their logic would seem to compel opposition to the plan in its entirety. But Senator Taft is not prepared to go that far. He favors a modification, the essential difference apparently being that the cost in 1948 should be $3,000,000,000 instead of $8,000,000,000. Even at the Taft figure, however, we would have most if not all of the evil results which he imputes to the Marshall plan. At best the difference would be one of degree.

The real trouble with the Taft plan, however, is that it probably would fail of attaining our main objective. Unless all of the men who have been studying this question are wrong, $3,000,000,000—if that is the Taft figure—will not keep communism from dominating Western Europe. And if in our best judgment it will not do that, we had better not spend the money at all.

There is, of course, no assurance that the Marshall figure, or any figure, will do the job. But we must choose among the alternatives of doing nothing, making a half-hearted effort along the line advocated by Senator Taft, or making the effort on a scale believed best calculated to succeed. If we had reached the point of war with Russia, the objections which Senator Taft is raising would be brushed aside as being utterly silly. We would not be thinking about prices, or taxes, or regimentation, or the policies of European governments. We would be thinking only of staying alive as a Nation, and we would count no cost as too great. And if we have a chance to prevent such a war, or prevent a realignment of world power that would be apt to produce such a war, it would be almost criminally foolish to muff the opportunity by quibbling over whether the price is too high.

It is true, as Senator Taft says, that General Marshall and those who support his program have made mistakes in judgment on matters of foreign policy. But their record compares very favorably in this respect with the record of Senator Taft, and it is extremely difficult to believe that his judgment at this critical time is to be preferred to theirs.

Interesting—if True

It will take more than the lurid account by one "John Griggs" in the French Rightist newspaper, L'Intransigeant, to convince American atomic scientists that the Russians have sucessfully tested a "small" atomic bomb. At the same time, it would be foolish to laugh off the report as a concoction of the imagination, for all authorities agree that Russian scientists can solve the A-bomb riddle eventually. How long it will take them to do so has been a matter of varied conjecture.

The Paris dispatch, assertedly from Moscow by way of Prague, comes in the wake of less-specific reports about a great explosion in Siberia last spring. These reports, widely published, had led to speculation that an atomic blast of some sort may have occurred, either by accident or design. Hints by the Russians that they already know the secret of the atom bomb have given the earlier reports added interest. On the other hand, the skeptics can find flaws in the story by Mr. "Griggs," a pseudonym adopted by the real author. He says, for instance, that the Russian explosion was heard not more than twenty miles away. But the test explosion in New Mexico was heard and seen more than a hundred miles away. If the writer meant that the over-all weight of the bomb was only 12½ pounds, then the Russians have gone much farther than the Americans and British in devising ways of reducing the bulk and weight of the weapon. It is regarded as extremely unlikely that they have made such notable strides. It requires a plane the size of a B-29 to carry our present A-bomb.

Viewed from all angles, the L'Intransigeant dispatch is one of those "interesting-if-true" stories which must be taken with a grain of salt. One of these days, however—and it may well be before many more months have passed—Russia will not only know the secret of the bomb, but will have one of its own. Unless some guarantee of international control is arrived at in the meantime, the implications will be grim indeed.

The Federation's Object

The object of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, under its own constitution, "is to obtain the expression of the general public sentiment upon matters of special interest to all citizens of the District of Columbia, and to secure and make effective their united action."

That object is hardly attainable in an organization which might choose to admit as delegates only those whose views or affiliations happen to enjoy the favor of a majority of the other delegates. In such circumstances, the Federation of Citizens' Associations should change its constitution and represent itself before the public as what it would become—an organization to obtain the expression of that sentiment within the District with which the Federation happens to approve by selective screening of those elected to membership.

Clifford H. Newell, immediate past president of the Federation, has explained that the delay in seating Mrs. Sylvia Wubnig as a delegate from the Kalorama Citizens' Association is to allow the proper committee to examine her credentials and conduct a hearing concerning her membership in the League of Women Shoppers. The Federation, he argues, enjoys the same right as the United States Senate to pass judgment on the qualifications of its members.

But the United States Senate obtains its power from the Constitution, while the Federation obtains its power in this respect out of thin air. There is nothing in its own constitution or bylaws giving it the right to refuse to seat a properly elected delegate because of the delegate's outside affiliation. Robert's Rules of Order, on which the Federation relies for any rule not covered in its constitution or bylaws, gives an assembly the right to "eject any one from its meeting place." But the rule contains an ominous note. While the chairman may detail members to remove a person, a member is liable for damages if he uses "harsher measures than is necessary."

This and That

By Charles E. Tracewell

"ARLINGTON, Va.

"Dear Sir:

"I am having a time to get the birds to come to my feeding station by the window.

"Is that a good place?

"I thought perhaps I had put it in the wrong place and tried it out farther in the yard, but still they did not come.

"So I put the station back by the window and there I am going to let it remain, birds or no birds. I cannot help but wonder, however, just why they do not eat.

"The station is painted white.

"Do birds like white, or does it frighten them? If I had painted it red, I could understand, but this station is pretty and as far as I can see, there is no excuse for these birds. I see them flying by, but not a one samples my seed.

"I see some crows. Could these be responsible? As far as I know, there have been no hawks or bad boys with air rifles.

"Yours truly, E. S."

* * * *

Sometimes birds seem to stay away from food put out for them for unaccountable reasons.

There is just no explanation. It must be kept in mind that they are, after all, very curious creatures. Men have been studying them for centuries and have done a fair job of knowing them—that is, externally—but knowledge of their internal history, as one might say, especially their minds, is still far to seek.

There is something mysterious about them, something of the same thing that strikes people about their cousins, the snakes.

Owls, for instance, have been regarded by mankind as symbols of wisdom.

The wise old owl is a smart-looking fellow, certainly, but he is no more so, perhaps, than other birds.

They are all wise enough, in their ways and something of this wisdom reposes in simple caution.

Therefore the person who puts out food and has no takers must first look around the neighborhood and see if he can determine just what it is that is keeping the birds away.

Caution, on their part, no doubt, is the first consideration and there is nothing to be done about this.

It is the way they protect themselves.

There can be little doubt that in neighborhoods where feeding has been going on for some time the birds will arrive quicker at a newly established one.

This is only natural.

But if no feeding has been done in the vicinity, the birds will have to get used to the idea.

Sometimes this takes a surprisingly long time. The hours pass, the days and occasionally the weeks, before the birds respond to the lure of food.

Whether there are plenty of natural foods, such as seeds of withered annuals and berries, may make all the difference in the world, but mostly the anxious watcher does not think of such matters.

All he knows is that he has put out food and the feathered friends have not deigned to come down to it.

What is the matter with them?

That is his question and it is a hard one to answer.

The color of the feeding device has little if anything to do with it.

If food is first put on the ground, at some one point, this may tend to calm the suspicion of the timid songsters.

After they get used to coming to this spot, the feeding station may be established where one desires it. Then the birds, first a few, then all later, will fly in. Both spots should be run simultaneously for a period.

In this way even the most timid birds may be lured to any feeding station.

One point is this: Do not watch too assiduously at the window at first.

The birds do not like moving shapes at windows and until they have become used to the new feeding spot it is best to stand back in the room at some distance from the pane.

American Coal to Europe

Incentive to Increase British Production Urged as Remedy for Continental Troubles

Youngsters learn to dig coal in the cramped quarters of a British mine.

To the Editor of The Star:

The National Industrial Conference Board reports that the United States is shipping coal to Europe this year at the rate of 550 times the average of 1935-1939.

These shipments have been at the rate of 3,300,000 tons monthly during this year, and the Department of Commerce reports that shipment for September was 4,610,000 tons. It is presumed that this latter rate will be continued or accelerated under the Marshall plan, involving an estimated 50,000,000 tons a year.

Let us see what the effect is now and will be of this prodigious volume of this kind of bulky freight on the American transportation system alone. If we allow one week for the run around of the cars from mine to port and return, loading and unloading, the operation requires 18,000 60-ton cars in continuous movement. For the transport of 4,610,000 tons of coal from American to European ports calls for 550 to 600 ships of 10,000 tons capacity, allowing 5 to 6 weeks for the out and return voyage.

In Mr. Lewis H. Brown's Report on Europe made by request to Gen. Lucius D. Clay, commander in chief of the European command, Mr. Brown says:

"When I went into Germany to study the problem of German recovery, I expected that the answer would be found in Germany. But as my studies developed, it became amazingly clear that the crux of the recovery problem of Germany and Western Europe lay in the digging and exporting of coal by Great Britain.

"Before the war, coal was supplied by boat from Great Britain to the large ports of Europe. Around these ports had grown up the industrial areas of these various countries. Coal that was not used in the immediate areas was sent by short rail hauls to other industrial centers or was transported by coal barges through rivers and canals.

British Power Based on Coal.

"Not only was Great Britain in prewar days the largest supplier of coal in Western Europe, but coal was the basis of her diplomatic power.

"The fact that Great Britain is no longer exporting coal to Western Europe is one of the biggest contributing factors to the dollar shortage with which she is now struggling—attempting to overcome this problem by resorting to austerity, nationalism and socialism.

"In the meantime, no progress has been made in Western Germany in the past year in the restoration of industrial production. Municipal power plants that supply thousands of small plants have been operating at a small percentage of capacity due to a shortage of coal.

"If a moratorium could be declared for one year to 15 months on the shipment of these 10,000,000 tons of coal out of Germany, a revolutionary dynamic would be inserted into the whole picture of Western Germany and Western Europe. If these 10,000,000 tons of coal now exported from Germany could be used for a year or 15 months within Germany, the restoration of not only Germany but of Western Europe could be assured.

"The only way, however, that this moratorium on the export of coal from Germany can take place is for the countries of Western Europe to be again supplied by coal from Great Britain.

"Great Britain has the coal. She has the barges with which to haul it. She has the miners with which to dig the coal. The miners themselves, I am assured, would dig the coal if they were given incentives. They can be given such incentives. The only real obstacle is the ideological theory of the present Labor government that places dependence upon socialization and nationalization, rather than the incentives that have always induced men to work.

"According to the latest reports Germany at the present is exporting at the rate of 10,000,000 tons per year. This is largely going to the countries in Western Europe which were in prewar days supplied by coal from Great Britain.

"If the miners of Great Britain, led by their government in a second great battle to save Britain, would work every Saturday they could in the course of a year produce 15,000,000 additional tons of coal. If England could export coal to the countries of Western Europe, the tide of world affairs might well be turned. If 10,000,000 tons of this 15,000,000 tons could be used to supply those countries now getting coal from Germany, then this amount of coal in Germany would provide the means of breaking the vicious cycle on which the fate of production in Germany now hangs. The other 5,000,000 tons exported from England, or used in part in the empire, would go a long way to provide some of the commodities that are necessary to save England.

"The first reaction of many people in England to this recommendation is that it can't be done. . . But the need is so imperative and the time so short that I would recommend that, as part of the Marshall plan, the suggestion be made that the Labor government in England at the earliest possible date institute a plan whereby a special ration coupon would be issued for each ton of coal produced on Saturdays, and a coupon of another color be issued for each extra ton of coal produced on weekdays. These special coupons would be usable only in stores in the mining towns to purchase from special stocks of food and consumer goods placed there for the express purpose by the British government. If necessary, I would recommend that special supplies of such goods be sent from America to stock these stores in mine communities.

"I have discussed this suggestion with one of the long-time labor leaders of Great Britain, a man close to the government. It was his opinion, and it is mine, that the wives and children of miners demanding a supply of these goods that have been so long unavailable, together with the inherent patriotism of the miners to do their part to win the second battle of Britain, will supply the incentive necessary to produce the coal."

Supplying of this American coal to Europe will cost the American taxpayers $1,000,000,000 a year.

There are over 700,000 coal miners in Great Britain and not more than two-thirds that number in the United States. Our Government, moreover, sent many millions of dollars worth of shovels and other mining machinery to Great Britain during the war.

Is it not more in accord with common sense to follow the suggestion of Mr. Brown of subsidizing the British miners to produce the coal at home in Europe rather than mining it in North America and transporting it over land and sea 4,000 miles to the same place?

Labor Government Blamed.

As both Mr. Brown and Senator Tydings point out, the trouble is not with miners but the methods of operation of the government. While the wages are very low by our standard, under the severe rationing system they are permitted to buy but little of what they need regardless of the money they earn. If the Government at Washington would arrange to supply the miners the food, clothes and necessaries to make life worth-while, they would mine coal as they did before the war.

Raymond P. Brandt in The Sunday Star of September 9 furnishes further and irrefutable proof that coal is the key and indispensable means for the restoration of Europe—that Britain has the coal, the miners and the facilities to produce the coal, and is lacking only the will, executive ability and economic means to put them into execution.

This being so, the supply of almost impossible quantities of American coal to Europe this or next year will remedy nothing, unless the root causes are removed.

If the Government in Washington is going to assume responsibility for restoring the economies of Western Europe—placing the burden on the American taxpayers—why does it not place its diplomats and other experts to work on this crucial problem at the right place? They should be able, in a delicate and diplomatic way, to persuade the British government to unbend a bit on their irrational methods and permit our Government to furnish British miners with the numerous things of which they and their families are now deprived by its rationing system. Senator Tydings quotes a well-informed person that the trouble is inability of the miner to buy necessities for himself and family; food rationing points; clothing and shoe coupons; priorities for housewares; high cost of luxuries; the inclination to earn only what is necessary because of the "pay as you earn" tax of 50 per cent above $10 a week. One mine manager said that if he could get a hundred fur coats and a thousand pairs of nylon stockings to put up as a lure to the miners' wives, he would not worry about absenteeism—the wives would see that the husbands worked. Thus mining coal in Britain is a human problem like everything else, but no bureaucrat ever knows that.

WILLIAM F. WILMOTH.

Letters to The Star

Letters for publication must bear the signature and address of the writer, although it is permissible for a writer known to The Star to use a non de plume. Please be brief.

Smoke and Fire

To the Editor of The Star:

The Bill of Rights was never intended as a smoke screen to hide enemies of our Government, nor to be transformed into a treacherous Trojan horse.

The Bill of Rights does not give unlicensed liberty. Every time I approach a red traffic light my liberties are proscribed. Each time I park my car at the curb my rights, yes my civil rights, are limited. Our complex civilization is so constituted that every hour of every day sees some restriction placed upon my civil liberties. There is no rhyme or reason to the tendency of the enemies of our Government, including the commies and the pinks, to hide under the skirts of the Bill of Rights in their efforts to destroy and undermine our way of living.

There is a good deal of sense to the old adage, "Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire." The recent congressional investigation was absolutely essential to the protection of the American way and rendered a real service. If the parties investigated are not guilty, then why so much opposition and resistance? The answer is obvious.

HERBERT EBERHARDT,
Superintendent, Central Union Mission.

Atomic Bomb Defense

To the Editor of The Star:

Former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, on page 276 of his book "Speaking Frankly" states:

"In the war just ended, the Germans and Japanese had poison gas and death-dealing germs, as did the Russians, the British and ourselves. That war was no polite tea party. It was brutal. Nevertheless, no nation dared use these terrible weapons because they knew the same weapons would be used against them."

Isn't that the best solution for the atomic-bomb problem? The effects of the atomic bomb are more terrible and more enduring than those of poison gas and death-dealing germs. Wouldn't the existence of numerous atomic bombs in the possession of many nations be the most effective restraint on the use of the atomic bomb? In the words of former Secretary Byrnes—no nation would dare use this terrible weapon if they knew the same weapon would be used against them.

Instead of trying to prevent the manufacture of atomic bombs, would it not be better to do just the reverse—publish in full and in detail the method of manufacturing the atomic bomb, and at the same time manufacture and distribute widely in the United States, Canada and Great Britain a large number of atomic bombs in such manner that no one small group in any of these nations could gain control of all the atomic bombs in existence?

S. SPENCER NYE.

Stars, Men and Atoms

'Thinking' Electric Brain Being Built for Army

High-Speed Calculator Can Exercise Some Freedom of Choice

By Thomas R. Henry

An electric brain that "thinks" now is being built for the Army.

Such a machine, which can not only carry out calculations of extremely complicated mathematical problems with essentially the speed of light, but which also can exercise some degree of free choice and initiative, is under construction at the University of Pennsylvania for the Ballistic Research Laboratories at Aberdeen, Md.

This is the Edvac, combining the virtues of two supermechanical calculators developed under Army direction during the war to solve extremely complicated problems of ballistics, performing in a few minutes problems which would have required days in the hands of expert computers.

Eniac Is Best Known.

Best known of these, developed at the University of Pennsylvania, was the Eniac. Its nerve cells were vacuum tubes. The great virtue of this machine was the extreme speed with which it worked. Millions of computations can be performed in an hour. But the extraordinarily complicated apparatus could do only what it was "told." A problem to be solved must be set up by experts who set numerous switches and plugging wires. This requires much time and there is a considerable risk of errors. But once the setup of a problem is accomplished and tested against error, numerous other problems of the same kind can be carried out several hundred times faster than by hand.

Simultaneously with the construction of the Eniac another machine was developed for the ballistics laboratory by the Bell Telephone Co. Instead of vacuum tubes this machine uses relays of the same kind as are used in telephone exchanges. It was called the Stibitz machine after its inventor, Dr. George R. Stibitz of the Bell Laboratories staff.

The great advantage of this machine was its ability to perform much more complicated problems and to exercise what might be considered the rudiments of free choice, one of the major differences between "thinking" and mere calculating.

Some of the more frequent, although by no means the most complicated, choices the machine will perform are listed by Franz L. Alt of the ballistics laboratory through the American Statistical Association.

"In a problem solved by successive approximation the machine repeats the iterative process until the difference between two successive approximations is smaller than a predetermined limit. Then it discontinues, prints the answers obtained, and automatically starts computation on the next problem.

To Operate Unattended.

"It is designed to operate at night without the presence of a human operator. If during unattended hours some trouble occurs—this may be either a failure of some part of the machine or an error of the operator who had previously set the machine up for a particular problem—the machine will wait a short time to see if the trouble clears up and then will automatically discontinue all computations on the present problem and immediately start work on any other problem that has been prepared for it."

The great drawback of the Stibitz machine was that it was too slow. It could do much more complicated computations than the Eniac, but its rate was less than a hundredth as fast. The two mechanical brains were based on quite different principles.

Now, Alt reports in the American Statistical Association's current journal, the two are being successfully combined for the ballistics laboratory at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering of the University of Pennsylvania.

The new machine—the "electronic discrete variable computer"—will operate with vacuum tubes and will have essentially the speed of the Eniac, but at the same time will have more "choice" and be able to work out more complicated problems than the telephone relay mechanism.

It will be superior to both in "memory"—the ability to store up numbers at one stage of a problem for use at some later stage. This machine, says Alt, "will enable us to solve problems which hitherto have been inaccessible to numerical methods."

Questions and Answers

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, 316 I street N.E., Washington 2, D. C. Please inclose 3 cents for return postage.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE.

Q. What is the origin of the sandwich?—D. R. H.

A. John Montague, Earl of Sandwich, was a great gambler. Early on the morning of August 6, 1762, after he had spent 24 hours at the gaming tables, he was brought two pieces of toasted bread with a piece of meat between. This was apparently the origin of the name, but the practice of placing meat between bread had been known at least as long ago as 100 B.C.

Q. When and where was the first intercollegiate football game played?—M. T. S.

A. The first intercollegiate football game was played November 6, 1869, at New Brunswick, N. J., between Princeton and Rutgers.

Q. Is there an active volcano in the United States?—P. D. L.

A. Lassen Peak in California is the only active volcano in the United States.

Q. In what play did Ethel Barrymore use the words, "That's all there is—there isn't any more"?—B. P. S.

A. The words, "That's all there is—there isn't any more," were spoken by Ethel Barrymore in a play called "Sunday" in which Miss Barrymore appeared in 1906. Since then she has used them as a final line for a curtain or after-dinner speech, until they are identified with her. "Sunday" was written by Horace Hodges and T. Wygney Percyval and produced first in London in 1904.

Q. What was the date of the Milwaukee fire?—E. D.

A. The great fire in Milwaukee occurred on the night of October 28, 1892.

Q. How do Government debts in the United States compare with private debts?—F. T. S.

A. In 1946 total private and public debts in the United States amounted to 393.4 billions of dollars. Of this the Federal debt amounted to 229.7 billions of dollars, State and local debts amounted to 13.6 billions of dollars, and private debts amounted to 150 billions of dollars.

City Park

Like a dim theater, the city square
Waits, while the drum-beat of the pigeons' flight
Ruffles this curtain of autumnal light,
And morning trumpets ripple in the air
Like some gay overture. Swiftly they prepare
A drama of this day and morning's bright
Awakening, stirring the slumbrous height
Of giant oaks, still mute and unaware.
Till with a stately harmony conjoint
Those mighty limbs awaken like the hum
Of a bass viol, mingling leafy dark
With morning sun in shadowed counterpoint.
The overture subsides. Morning has come.
The curtain rises on a city's park.

GEORGE GREENWAY.